

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, August 9. 1707.

AND now we are come to see if another Blow can be given the *Emperor*, to Ballance his approaching Conquest of *Tboulon*, and truly I think there may, and if it be any where it must be by the *Swede*, on the side of the Hereditary Countries.

I am told, I must be very cautious of speaking of the *Swedes*, that I must allow of every thing he does to be right and just; I must not so much as say he designs this or that; say, I must not speak well of him, but I shall be observ'd and corrected.

Review, 66. I say of him— That there is yet something unknown to *Europe*, in the Projects of that Prince, I cannot but believe, and time must discover— Either he has something in View beyond the usual Guesses of the World, or else he is the most Impolitick nothing-doing Prince in the

World—And this we have no Reason to say of him yet.

What any Man can find out in this to cast a Reproach upon the King of *Sweden*, I cannot imagine; and as indeed I am in a Place, where the People have the unhappiness not to enjoy the Benefit of that Gentleman's wise Observations, and indeed not at all to want them, so I cannot be directly inform'd of the Objections — But sure to write, that we have had no Reason to say, the King of *Sweden* has been an Impolitick nothing-doing Prince, can offend no Friend to the *Swedes*.

Again, I say it of the King of *Sweden*, he cannot be suppos'd to lie still in *Saxony*, with near 50000 Men at his Heels the prime of a Campaign, and have no Design at all in *Saxony*; he can have no need to remain, he has sufficiently humbled both that Country

try and its Prince; in *Poland* and in *Livonia*, he is more than wanted to relieve his Confederates in one, and his own Subjects in the other, Ravag'd Impoverish'd, Ruin'd and Massacred by the Barbarous *Muscovites*, and yet he sits not.

He cannot be afraid of the *Muscovite*, tho' if he lets him alone, he may in time Repent it; but at present the Army in *Saxony* is able to drive the *Muscovite* out of all he has gain'd—It cannot be, sure it cannot be, that he forgets or neglects his Allies or Subjects, that would be unfaithful to one, and unnatural to the other—What then can it be, it must be that he has some great thing in View, which is more than a Ballance to all the Insults he suffers nearer home? — And this thing 'tis plain, is in no one's view but his own.

If he has no View, no Design, no Prospect, no Meaning; let any Man say, whether he is not an Impolitick nothing-doing Prince or no.

He has hitherto indeed shown himself a Glorious and Active and a Politick Prince—But since nothing must be said against him, I would be glad to hear what Account can be given, why a Prince so Great, that has Ravag'd *Poland*, Conquer'd *Saxony*, and in a manner Insulted the *Emperor*, should, pushing on his Glory; his Conquest, his great Designs—At the same time, leave his poor Subjects of *Livonia*, his own People, his own Children, for Kings are, or ought to be *Murdering Fathers to their Subjects*; expos'd, and in a manner unguarded, to the Mercy of the Cruel *Muscovite*—That has let *Narva*, the Capital City of the Country, fall into the Hands of the *Czar*; that has let several other Towns there be taken by Storm, and his faithful Subjects be Butcher'd without Relief; that suffers the *Muscovite* now to build Ships, spread the Gulph of *Finland* with Piracies, and Rob, Plunder, and destroy his Trading Subjects—And all this while their Prince was Victor in *Poland*, pressing forward, and Invading others, and particularly during the Siege of *Narva*, had no Army in *Poland*, in the Field against him.

Is this to be a Hero, is this the Price of a Princes Glory, is this the way to raise a King's Fame in the World? It is, misera-

ble is the Lot of the Subjects of those Princes, who obtain the Great Titles and Honours of this World—This was never the Practice of King *William*, nor of any good King that ever I read of.

I believe the War in *Livonia*, cost the Lives of 25000 of the good People in the Country, and his *Swedish* Majesty never thought fit to make any Movements, or send any considerable Detachments to their Succours; let the Objector tell me who must Account for all that Blood, and let the Gentleman, who so haughtily challeng'd me to defend King's *Williams* Memory in the Affair of *Glenco*, and which I believe I have done to his confusion—Let him defend this piece of Kingly Conduct if he can.

In vain we have been talking against Tyrants, and against the Arbitrary Power of Princes, if he is a Hero that betrays his People to another Tyrant, and hea Tyrant, that defending them from all other Hands, pinches them by his own.

The King of *France*, is much, less a Tyrant than such a one; for whatever he has done to his People himself, he has taken care they shall fall into no bodies Hand but his own—And I think I may say without Offence, That Prince who neglects the just Defence of his own Subjects on any account whatever, is every way as much a Tyrant, as he that Oppresses them; nay, and this Negative Tyranny is of the two much the worse.

'Tis as if the Shepherd should leave his Sheep, or a Father his Family, to fall into the Hands of Wolves and Thieves. *He that provides not for his Family*, says the Text, *is worse than an Infidel*; not provide for their Defence, is as bad as not to provide for their Subsistence; and indeed, take the Father one way, and the Prince another, 'tis just the same thing.

Woe then to that Nation whose King is a Hero—And what Robbery for burnt Offering is it, to sacrifice the Blood of our own People to one Enemy, to prosecute Triumphs and fancied Glory over another? let the Friends to the Character of a Great Prince now in the World, clear him then of this Negative Tyranny if they can, but this by the way.

We

We come now to the King of *Sweden*, and the *Emperor*. All the probable guesses I have met with at the Designs of that Prince, point at the *Emperor* ; I confess, I am not yet furnish'd with the Ground of the Misunderstandings between them ; I know the *Affront*, pretended, is letting 1500 *Muscovites* pass thro' *Silesia*, and slip out of his Hands ; but here it will remain to examine,

1. What right the King of *S. . . n* had, to expect or demand, the delivering up of these Troops ?
2. Whether the *Emperor*, in offering to refer himself to the Arbitriment of *England* and *Holland*, does not show himself fair and Peaceably inclin'd ?

If it be said the *Emperor* makes that offer, because he is not now in a Condition to deal with the *Swede*, it may be as well answer'd ; the *Swede* perhaps makes such a frivolous pretence of a Quarrel, only because he knows the *Emperor* is not in a condition to deal with him, and I think any body may determine which is most generous.

O, but the King of *Sweden* is a Protestant Prince, and that's a good Authority to make War upon a Popish— To this I answer ; we have been very loth to take that Argument inverted for good, and when *Ferdinand II.* invaded the Protestants, for making the famous Treaty, call'd the *Conclusions of Leipsick*, it was exalted by the Catholics as a meritorious Action ; but it was call'd Tyranny, Murther, and Robbery by the Protestants.

But the Inhabitants of *Silesia*, and *Bohemia*, Sollicite the *Swede* to help and deliver them from the Cruelty, Oppression, and Persecution of the *Emperor*— This indeed is the best Title he has to act upon, because any Prince may Assist an Oppress'd Nation to recover their just Rights— But 1st. It does not yet appear to us, that there is such an Application made to him. 2^{ly}. If there is, why is the 1500 *Muscovites* made the Pretence ? the other is too good a Cause to be ashamed of ; his Predecessor, the Glorious *Gustavus*, and his Imitator the as Glorious King *William*, bravely and publickly were call'd to Ransom Oppress'd Nations, and

own'd the Call, and brought to pass their Attempts openly.

But I come from the Cause of this War, if it happens, to the Consequence. I own as Matters stand now, His *Swedish* Majesty need but ask and have, wish and take ; if he will enter *Bohemia*, or *Silesia*, or *Austria*, or *Bavaria*, 'tis all his own, and there are really no Forces any where to resist him— But must the Empire needs dissolve, are there not three or four Remedies for the *Emperor* ?

1. May he not immediately recall his Army from the *Neapolitan* Expedition ?
2. Grant Peace and Liberty to the *Hungarians* ? And,
3. Make a separate Peace with *France*, and if that, we shall have great occasion on this side to thank his *Swedish* Majesty for his care of the Protestant Religion indeed ?

And without undervaluing the *Swedes* at all, for indeed they are not to be undervalued ; I must tell them they would not be able to look the *Emperor* in the Face, nor maintain their Footing in *Germany*, no, not one Summer.

The *Emperor* is indeed low now, as being divided in his Forces for the several Wars he is now engag'd in ; his Forces are Great, and his Troops some of the best in *Europe* ; but they are scatter'd in *Transylvania*, *Hungaria*, *Naples*, *Piedmont*, *Bavaria*, and the *Rhine* ; if but the three Articles above should be heartily apply'd to, in one Winter you would see Prince *Eugene* of *Savoy* facing the *Swedes*, at the Head of 80000 Men, and what wild work would these things make in *Christendom* ?

If any Man will say this is unlikely, and the *Swedes* cannot be so beaten ; let them look no farther back than to King *Casimir* of *Poland*, and the Great King of *Sweden* *Car. Gustavus*, Grandfather to his present Majesty, and there they will find the *Swedes* compleat Masters of *Poland*, they had ravag'd and overrun the whole Kingdom, and driven the King to a perfect flight out of his Kingdom into *Silesia* ; and yet the very same King of *Poland*, without any assistance but of his own People, having but recover'd their

their Courage from the first Surprise, took their turn with the *Swedes*, Defeated them in the Great Battle of *Warsaw*, which lasted three Days together, beat them on every occasion, and in two Years left not one of them in the whole Kingdom.

Thus the Consequences of seeking Quarrels, and taking Advantages of the Broils of our Neighbours, do not always meet with a Blessing.

If the *Swedes* Designs are to assist Oppress'd Nations, or Persecuted Subjects, and to restore Liberty, Law, and Religion, Amen, let him prosper; but if these are mingled with Ambition, Usurpation, and seeking Advantages to crush his Neighbours, and enlarge his own Glory; may that proud Arm be stay'd by Him that ruleth among the Princes of the Earth, and may not be permitted to interrupt the present happy Prospect of the Confederates, for the Reduction of the Enemies of Europe's Peace, and Settlement of Religion and Liberty in the World.

This is the End of the present War, 'tis this alone makes the beginning of it just, and the carrying of it on Honourable; and whoever lessens, weakens, or any way willingly opposes this War, is an Enemy to GOD, and to the Cause and Interest of his Church in the World, let it be King or Emperor, or any human Power whatsoever.

This has indeed run me into a Digression from the Enquiry; what Effect the King of Sweden's pushing at the Emperor may have, to hurt or turn the Arms of Prince Eugene from the Attempt he is now upon in *Provence*; I cannot but hope, the King of Sweden will have more consideration for the General Peace of Religion, and for the present Grand Confederacy against *France*, than to take such a Juncture as this is.

If not, we must bear it, and let the Disappointment be as it will; let us but get *Boulon* first, we shall be the better able to fight the *French* King, without the help of the *Imperialists* than we were before, and

must take our Fate for the future.

And this I must say as my Opinion, whenever the *Swede* so pushes the Emperor, as to make him withdraw all his Force from the Confederates to defend himself; I doubt he will find himself too weak for him: and I appeal to all the State of former Wars between them for a Proof, and the number of Troops either part can bring into the Field; the rest I leave to the Experiment, when ever he shall think fit to make it.

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